

## Region 1

### Hot Topics

#### **Poor Air Quality Continues in New England**

New England had four days this week with ozone concentrations in excess of the 2015 maximum 8-hour average NAAQS of 70 ppb (highest levels were 87 ppb in East Nantucket, RI and 88 ppb in Madison, CT). On July 21 and 25 two ozone monitors exceed 70 ppb in Connecticut, and one exceeded 70 ppb on July 26. On July 27, three states recorded concentrations that were in excess of the 2015 maximum 8-hour average NAAQS. The total number of ozone exceedance days in New England this year is now ten.

#### **Negative Declaration for Existing MSW Landfills in Rhode Island**

On July 28, RI received a negative declaration from the RI Department of Environmental Management for 40 CFR Part 60, Subpart Cf, Emission Guidelines for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills to serve in lieu of a state plan. EPA's revised emission guidelines for existing landfills require states to either develop a state-specific plan or submit a negative declaration if the state has no existing sources. Rhode Island's only landfill subject to federal landfill standards recently expanded, subjecting it to new source performance standards as opposed to the existing source standards. The letter certifies that there are no existing facilities in the State of RI that must comply with this rule.

#### **Environmental Groups Submit EAB Petition for Review of 2020 Merrimack Station NPDES Permit**

On July 27, RI received a petition for review of the Granite Shore Power Merrimack LLC (NH0001465) NPDES permit from the Conservation Law Foundation and Sierra Club. Merrimack Station is a coal-fired powerplant located in Bow, New Hampshire. Three public comment periods were held during the permit development since 2011. The Final Permit authorizes discharges of pollutants to, and the withdrawal of water for cooling from, the Merrimack River. The petition for review issues include conditions related to thermal discharges, protection of the balanced indigenous population of the water body, conditions related to combustion leachate, and procedural issues.

#### **RI Supports Brownfields Technical Assistance Project in Providence, Rhode Island**

On July 28, RI participated in a virtual meeting with headquarters, contract support, and members of the City of Providence to discuss the technical assistance the City received from EPA's Land Revitalization program. The assistance provided the City with planning designs and detailed cost estimates to spur redevelopment in the so-called Charlotte Hope Plaza area, which had been identified as a key area in the City's Brownfields Area-Wide Plan and is located within an Opportunity Zone.

#### **RI Provides Public Notice Assistance for RCRA Permit Renewal in Connecticut**

On July 27, CT DEEP initiated a 45-day public comment period for the RCRA Permit Renewal for Naval Submarine Base New London. As CT DEEP was unable to set up a physical information repository due to COVID-19, RI's assistance creating an electronic information repository helped CT DEEP meet an FY20 commitment for the issuance of the permit renewal which otherwise would have been delayed.

#### **RI Proposes Notice of Intent to Partially Delist Parcel from Industri-plex Superfund Site**

On July 15, a Notice of Intent to Partially Delist (NOIPD) the 200 Presidential Way parcel from the Industri-Plex Superfund Site, Woburn, MA was published in the Federal Register. RI and MassDEP have determined that all appropriate response actions at the identified parcel under CERCLA have been

completed. This partial deletion pertains to soil and groundwater at the approximately 10.7-acre parcel at 200 Presidential Way; remaining areas/media at the site will stay on the NPL.

#### **R1 Issues Three Clean Water Act Compliance Orders to LKQ Northeast, Inc.**

On July 21, R1 issued three Clean Water Act compliance orders to LKQ Northeast, Inc. facilities in Webster, Leominster and Southwick, MA. EPA inspections at these auto salvage yards revealed noncompliance with the 2015 *Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Discharges*. The orders require the facilities to come into compliance with MSGP requirements, update their Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans, and submit plans for stormwater best management practices at each of their facilities.

#### **Cleanup Progress at Mohawk Tannery Superfund Site in New Hampshire**

On July 27, R1 met with the developer of the Mohawk Tannery site to discuss finalizing agreements for site cleanup and commitment of funds within fiscal year 2020. We are expecting progress on this priority site (including comments back from the developer on the AOC) within the next few days. The region met with OLEM this week to provide an update on the project.

#### Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

#### **R1 To Announce Proposed Plan for Olin Chemical Site in Massachusetts**

The Proposed Plan for the Olin Chemical Site is scheduled to be released on August 10. The plan outlines EPA's preferred cleanup alternatives for an interim action to begin cleanup of groundwater by controlling the major sources of contamination to the aquifer, and a final action to address contamination in soil, sediments, and surface water. R1 will host a virtual public meeting on August 25, and a formal public hearing on September 22. Olin has reached consensus with the Town of Wilmington on the agreement to design and construct a water connection to the households currently on bottled water and the Town Selectmen will review and approve at their next meeting schedule for August 17, for site cleanup and commitment of funds within fiscal year 2020. We are expecting progress on this priority site (including comments back from the developer on the AOC) within the next few days. The region met with OLEM this week to provide an update on the project.

## Region 2

### Hot Topics

#### **Prasinos UIC Class V Permit Update**

R2 has issued the Final Permit which will become effective on August 26. This is a pumped storage project that involves injection of water into a subsurface geological formation, under pressure; and release of the pressurized water at a later time to turn a turbine and generate electricity. The final permit does not include the use of additives, something that was requested by Prasinos during the public comment period. After the permit becomes effective, Prasinos may conduct its initial work and can then submit a request for a permit modification to incorporate the use of additives. The final permit package includes a Responsiveness Summary and has been sent to Prasinos.

#### **NY Water Quality Standards (WQS)**

On July 27, R2 wrote to NYSDEC advising that the State's May 26, adoption of regulatory amendments appear to revise NY's legally binding WQS regulations. EPA requested that by September 15, (90 days from the June 17, effective date of the amendments), the State submit those amendments to EPA, along with the other relevant required elements of a WQS submission. Absent such a submission, EPA intends to proceed with a rulemaking to promulgate bacteria criteria to protect primary contact recreation in NY's Class I and SD saline surface waters, consistent with our March 17, 2018 disapproval of NYSDEC's revised water quality criteria.

#### **GAO Report on Great Lakes Plan 2014**

The Government Accountability Office [ [HYPERLINK "https://www.gao.gov/assets/710/708348.pdf" \h](https://www.gao.gov/assets/710/708348.pdf) ] saying that the International Joint Commission (IJC), which developed "Plan 2014" to manage Lake Ontario water levels, does not effectively evaluate its efforts to communicate with stakeholders about water releases; and that the IJC hasn't developed a comprehensive plan to assess and improve Plan 2014. GAO recommended that the U.S. commissioners work with their Canadian counterparts to develop more robust plans for communicating and for assessing the efficacy of Plan 2014. The IJC has more recently taken steps to address this issue and has held regular and frequent webinars to educate the public about lake levels, and about what is and what is not under human influence. Water levels in Lake Ontario have held steady so far in 2020, and the IJC is not forecasting the same kinds of flooding as occurred in 2017 and 2019.

#### **Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR)**

In early July, AES posted the CCR Remedy Selection Report for its power plant in Puerto Rico. AES selected remedial Alternative 1 which involves construction of a synthetic liner between the CCR and the ground surface, and employs monitored natural attenuation to attain groundwater protection standards. The amount of CCR at the site is being reduced and is being disposed outside of PR at a rate that will allow for liner construction to begin by February 2021. **ALSO:** NRG posted the Notification of Initiation of Assessment of Corrective Measures for CCR at its landfill site in Dunkirk, NY. This notification is required after finding a CCR Rule Appendix IV constituent at a statistically significant level during groundwater assessment monitoring. NRG plans to conduct a Corrective Measures Assessment for the affected CCR unit.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

**Superfund Proposed Plan Public Meetings**

Virtual public meetings to discuss proposed cleanup plans will be held on August 5, for the Riverside Industrial Site; and on August 11, for the Imperial Oil Site.

**Region 3****Hot Topics****West Virginia Virtual Permit Quality Review**

During the week of June 29-July 2 Region 3 Staff conducted the core review for the 2020 West Virginia NPDES Permit Quality Review (PQR), along with assistance from PG Environmental (EPA HQ contract). EPA conducts a PQR for each state's NPDES program once every five years to identify program strength as well as areas for improvement. The core review involves detailed evaluations of the quality of 10 NPDES permits and is normally conducted at the state permitting authority offices. This year, the review was successfully conducted remotely using available video and audio-conferencing tools, as well as maximizing electronic records sharing and viewing tools to review permit records provided by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection in PDF format. Completion of the report, which will include sections on national and regional topic areas as well as the core review, is expected by the end of FY 2020.

**Delmarva Land and Litter Collaborative**

On July 22, 2020, EPA Region 3 Mid-Atlantic Agriculture Advisor, joined the Steering Committee of the Delmarva Land and Litter Collaborative for its quarterly virtual meeting. The Collaborative brings a diverse group of stakeholders together to find environmentally sound approaches to chicken farming on the Delmarva Peninsula. Discussion topics/outcomes for the quarterly meeting were:

- Poultry Manure Matching Service – DLLC proposal to develop a poultry litter matching service to move surplus poultry litter to agricultural lands that can use it at agronomic rates. DLLC is seeking funding from EPA's Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction program administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundations (decisions will be made in August).
- COVID-19 Impacts on Chesapeake Bay -- state efforts to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution as part of the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort. DLLC will hold a Policy Workgroup virtual meeting in the fall to hear from EPA, States, and Delmarva stakeholders more details about the Chesapeake Bay restoration goals, pandemic impacts on meeting goals, and key financial and technical assistance needs moving forward.
- Ammonia Emissions Monitoring – Delmarva Poultry Industries, Keith Campbell Foundation, and Maryland Department of Environment have partnered to monitor ambient air quality (ammonia and PM-2.5 and PM-5.0) at two Lower Eastern Shore monitoring stations – one in Pocomoke City near poultry houses and one in Princess Anne with few poultry houses. Data is available at [here](#).
- Funding Gaps and Leveraging Opportunities – the Collaborative will host upcoming webinars on funding gaps and leveraging opportunities to support poultry conservation practice implementation to meet local and Chesapeake Bay restoration goals.

**Region 3 issues Notice of Refusal of Admission for import of unregistered pesticide by Galactic Tech (MD)**

On July 20, Region 3 issued a Notice of Refusal of Admissions to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection for import of an unregistered pesticide by Galactic Technologies, LLC through the port of

Baltimore. The disinfectant, called “Alcohol Antibacterial Wipes,” was not registered with the EPA and the importer stated the wipes were imported “to assist the American consumers to fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.” All pesticides must be registered with the EPA and sale and distribution of an unregistered pesticide is a FIFRA violation. The importer has the option to remove the product from the shipment and either destroy it according to federal and local regulations, or to export it to the country of origin, and must demonstrate the product was either destroyed or exported.

### **Region 3 commences VADEQ Round 4 State Review Framework remote file reviews (VA)**

On July 20, Region 3 State Review Framework (SRF) teams started electronic file reviews for the VADEQ Round 4 State Review Framework (SRF) using the MS Teams platform. This is first time Region 3 is conducting a virtual state file review across all media, and is only possible due to VADEQ maintaining electronic files for all its programs. The CWA SRF team will begin their file review on August 17 and follow the same virtual format using the Teams platform. A draft report highlighting findings and recommendations for improvement to ensure fair and consistent enforcement and compliance programs across the states will be prepared in the Fall.

### **Region 3 collaborates with state partners on NPDES enforcement teleconference (Region 3-wide)**

On July 21, Region 3 staff held a teleconference with NPDES managers and staff from DE, PA, MD, VA, WV and DC to strengthen collaboration between federal and state counterparts. This highly productive meeting resulted in the development of NPDES inspection targets for the FY21 strategic plan, as well as the decision to shift EPA targeting from annual to quarterly. States were unanimously in favor of the quarterly approach, agreeing to keep open lines of communication on a regular basis. A noteworthy action item from this call was to garner additional state participation on development of a virtual NPDES enforcement states meeting planned for the fall.

Region 3 holds training for states on MS4 inspections (DC, DE, WV)

On July 15-16, Region 3 staff held virtual training on conducting on-site Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) inspections for staff from WVDEP, DNREC, and DCDOEE. The training comprised examples of successful and less successful MS4 program implementation efforts; tips for planning inspections, and advice on how to improve documentation of observations

### **Hanlin-Allied-Olin Proposed Plan Public Meeting**

On July 23, 2020, EPA hosted an online Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) public meeting for the Hanlin-Allied-Olin Superfund Site. The purpose of the public meeting was to present preferred alternatives for the cleanup of Operable Unit 1 at the site. EPA presented the preferred alternatives for final remedies for shallow soils, the Former Mercury Cell Building Area, Hanlin Area sewers, and the interim remedy for South Plant shallow groundwater. The Record of Decision is scheduled to be signed by the end of 2020. Two community members attended the online meeting in addition to several representatives from Potentially Responsible Parties. EPA also collected public comments at the meeting from one community member.

### **Annual Multi-Agency Meeting for Superfund Sites in Chester County, PA.**

The annual meeting between EPA, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and the Chester County Health Department will be held on July 29, 2020 via Microsoft Teams. Other stakeholders, including the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the Pennsylvania Department of Health will also be in attendance. EPA and PADEP will discuss the progress and status of federal Superfund sites and state Hazardous Site Cleanup Act sites and the

importance of community involvement. The annual meeting fosters transparency, communication, and collaboration among the respective organizations at a federal, state, and local level.

**Air Plan Approval; Maryland; 1997 8-hour Ozone NAAQS Limited Maintenance Plan for the Kent and Queen Anne's Counties Area**

On July 22, EPA published a final rulemaking notice (FRN) in the Federal Register, approving a state implementation plan (SIP) revision submitted by Maryland (85 FR 44212). This revision pertains to the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) plan for maintaining the 1997 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for the Kent and Queen Ann's Counties area.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to Report.

**Region 4**Hot Topics**COVID-19 activities**

R4 Atlanta offices and Athens lab continue to operate in Phase 1. The Gulf of Mexico Division continues to operate under the COOP.

**Rockwell International Wheel and Trim Superfund Site NPL listing challenge (Grenada, MS)**

On July 28, the United States Court of Appeals (District of Columbia) denied Meritor Inc.'s petition for review of the NPL listing; therefore, the NPL listing stands. In its opinion, the court said "Meritor's main objection is that the EPA failed to take sufficient account of an already installed sub-slab depressurization system in determining the hazardousness of the site. Because the EPA's decision was reasonable and consistent with the governing regulatory provisions, we deny the petition for review." The decision is significant as it is the first challenge to a site that was listed based on vapor intrusion under the Subsurface Intrusion pathway which was added to the HRS in January 2017. In denying the petition, the court acknowledged that the Subsurface Intrusion pathway and validity of the HRS framework were not in dispute.

**Sterigenics, Smyrna, GA**

On July 23, R4 met with OAQPS, GA EPD, and Sterigenics regarding ambient EtO data collected by various parties in GA, with a focus on Smyrna Sterigenics facility. Also on July 23, R4 spoke with a representative of Stop Sterigenics Georgia to explain necessary delays between air sample collection and release of results (e.g., lab analysis time, QA/QC of results). Southside Chattanooga Lead, Chattanooga, TN: The sampling event for July 27 - August 7, was announced to residents via a public notice, update to the site web page, email, and a video by the Remedial Project Manager (RPM). The RPM and Community Involvement Coordinator will begin to contact residents this week to schedule sampling activities. Sampling results from the previous sampling event should be made available next week, and results will be mailed to residents shortly thereafter.

**Oak Ridge Reservation (DOE)**

R4, TDEC and DOE established a technical project team to develop a draft of the ROD close to approvable standards to minimize comments on the formal ROD submittal, planned for December 2020. The cost of the proposed remedy will be greater than \$100M. R4 sent comments to HQ responding to the technical issues concerning DOE's proposed risk assessment calculations for surface water levels protective of humans potentially ingesting fish from Bear Creek on the Oak Ridge Reservation. There is a joint senior leadership team meeting on August 6.

**FL 404 Assumption**

FDEP indicated this week that their assumption request package will be submitted by July 31. FDEP submitted the draft Biological Assessment, which EPA staff are currently reviewing with the goal of submitting the BA to the services by Aug 14. R4 staff also provided FDEP with suggested revisions to the draft Corps-FDEP MOA on July 27.

Davidson Asbestos Site, Davidson, NC: On July 30, a virtual meeting will be hosted by the Town of Davidson. R4 is presenting an update about the Davidson Asbestos removal activities followed by a Q&A session. NCDEQ, NC DHHS and the Town of Davidson will also participate.



Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

**R4/FDEP MOA**

On July 31, RA Walker will sign the Memorandum of Agreement between EPA R4 and Florida DEP that sets forth the State and Federal responsibilities for program administration and enforcement, as Florida plans to seek authorization to assume the Clean Water Act 404 program.

**Region 5**Hot Topics**Minnesota Requests Technical Support for PFAS Foam on Waterways**

Key Message: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has requested technical assistance to evaluate PFAS foam on waterways. RA Thiede approved the request and sent a letter to ORD confirming his support. On July 29, R5 staff met with ORD and MPCA to begin scoping out the work. R5 and ORD are supportive of this collaboration and anticipate that the research outcomes will help inform EPA and other stakeholders evaluating this topic.

MPCA is asking for support to help compare sampling methods for PFAS foam and assess environmental conditions that lead to PFAS stratification in the water column. They also want support evaluating passive monitoring well samplers for PFAS in groundwater. Several other R5 states are also facing challenges related to PFAS foam on waterways.

**EPA Files Motion to Dismiss Challenge on Discretionary Actions**

Key Message: On July 27, the U.S. Department of Justice filed a partial motion to dismiss in Minnesota District Court in response to an amended complaint by the Fond du Lac Band against EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers. In the motion, DOJ takes the position that the tribe's claims should be dismissed because EPA's actions at issue are strictly discretionary and therefore not subject to judicial review. The tribe's response is due Aug. 31. A hearing is scheduled for Oct. 2.

EPA's actions at issue are choosing not to comment on or object to an NPDES permit issued pursuant to a state's approved NPDES program, and EPA's choice not to determine whether a discharge "may affect" a downstream state's water quality pursuant to CWA Section 401(a)(2). In response to the tribe's claims, the motion asserts that EPA's choice not to take action does not demonstrate that the EPA treated the tribe dissimilarly from other states or acted in bad faith, and thus cannot overcome the highly deferential presumption of a lack of administrative bias. EPA's motion is for partial dismissal because while both EPA and USACE are named defendants, the USACE portion of the suit has been stayed pending other, related litigation, involving just the Corps.

**Spill of Contaminated Water Near Lower Menominee River AOC in Wisconsin**

Key Message: On July 26, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources shared that they were monitoring an accidental release of contaminated river and groundwater (roughly 50-250 gallons) at the JCI/Tyco facility in Marinette, Wis. The facility reported that a mixture of river water and contaminated groundwater entered storm sewer drains which flow back into the Menominee River. Previous site sampling has shown the groundwater was contaminated with arsenic and PFAS from prior discharges.

The site is under a RCRA consent order to mitigate contaminated groundwater from interacting with the Menominee River by containing the affected area with sheet piling to bedrock. Some of the contaminated water recovered is being analyzed. A full report of the incident is being prepared by DNR.

**RA Thiede Visits Michigan to Highlight Great Lakes protection, meet with partners**

Key Message: On July 27 – July 29, RA Thiede participated in a series of events throughout Lower Michigan, announcing more than \$16 million in Great Lakes and watershed protection grants. The

three-day trip also included a stop at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore to participate in the release of piping plover chicks into their Great Lakes habitat, a visit with the mayor of Flint to discuss the city's efforts to provide clean and safe water to residents, and roundtable meetings with the leadership and members of various Michigan industry and agriculture groups, including the Michigan Manufacturers Association, Michigan Oil & Gas Association, and the Michigan Farm Bureau. There was press coverage of the trip and involvement from congressional and other elected officials.

### **Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Drinking Water System in Compliance**

Key Message: The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community has returned one of its community water systems to compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act's health-based standards by connecting multiple systems to a new source and treatment plant. This successful regionalization of water systems was accomplished through a memorandum of understanding between KBIC, Region 5 and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. Follow-up monitoring for contaminants over the last year shows the levels are below the standard.

KBIC's Kawbawgam Road community water system exceeded the maximum contaminant levels for two groups of disinfection by-products – total trihalomethane and five haloacetic acids - beginning in the fourth quarter of 2018. EPA Region 5 worked with KBIC and the Indian Health Service to develop a compliance assistance plan, which was issued in May of 2019.

### **Work Starts Back Up at Cleanup Sites After COVID-19 Shutdown**

Key Message: On July 27, the Bridgewood Lane site remobilized after three crew members test results for COVID-19 came back negative. The site had previously been shut down and crew members were isolated at their hotel pending the test results. On August 3, a small crew will remobilize at the Trowbridge site which was previously shut down after a crew member tested positive on July 22.

During the shutdown all field facilities, equipment and boats were disinfected and professionally cleaned. One additional field crew member tested asymptomatic positive for COVID and will not return to the site. All other field crew personnel tested negative.

### **R5 Approves Indiana's Water Quality Standard Revisions**

Key Message: On July 30, R5 approved the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's water quality standards revisions that modify the recreation uses for waters affected by residual CSO discharges. This approval is in conjunction with Indianapolis' implementation of a Long-Term Control Plan at the end of 2025.

After full implementation of the CSO LTCP, elevated bacterial levels in surface waters that impact recreational opportunities will be driven by sources other than CSOs, and this frees Indianapolis to prioritize its resources to implement activities that would have greater benefit. This is the first time that a state has sought EPA approval of a permanent use downgrade to allow for residual CSOs remaining after implementation of a CSO Long Term Control Plan.

### **Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**

Nothing to Report.

**Region 6**Hot Topics**COVID-19**

R6 is coordinating closely with our state and tribal environmental and public health agencies as well as EPA HQ offices to elevate and address challenges quickly. Renaissance Tower in Dallas is under 7-day closure. R6 Warehouse in Addison and the Border Office in El Paso are being accessed for mission critical work. R6 has no new cases of COVID-19.

**Denka, LaPlace, Louisiana**

R6 is preparing to update the state, local officials and community advocates about the transition of air monitoring networks around the facility. OCIR updated Congressional offices in Louisiana this week. R6 anticipates removal of the OAR-funded community monitoring for chloroprene in approximately 8 to 12 weeks. OECA continuous air monitoring SPods have been deployed at all six sampling locations and should be fully operational soon. The OECA SPods will operate continuously and allow us to better characterize and understand the occasional elevated chloroprene concentrations observed at our community air monitors since installation of pollution controls at Denka. The SPods are expected to collect air monitoring information during the facilities upcoming maintenance turn-around and continue operating until about December 2020.

**Environmental Health Resources for Schools, R6 States**

On July 29, R6 shared a Special Edition of the R6 Healthy Schools Newsletter to assist schools as they prepare for the 2020 - 2021 School Year reopening during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Included in the newsletter is information from the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs for safe and effective use of disinfectants, specifically those on List N for use against the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The newsletter included links to CDC Guidance websites for reopening Child Care, Schools, and Youth Programs and included important information on indoor air quality and water quality in buildings with low or no use. The R6 newsletter reaches more than 4,000 public and private schools.

**Hurricane Hanna, Padre Island, Kennedy County, Texas**

On July 25 – July 26, R6 monitored Hurricane Hanna making landfall and was prepared for any request for assistance by FEMA or TCEQ. R6 does not expect any other requests for assistance from TCEQ. R6 is conducting rapid assessments of NPL Superfund sites in the impacted area and does not anticipate significant damage from the storm. There have been a minimal number of small spills reported as a result of the hurricane. R6 Office of Environmental Justice provided contact information to key stakeholders in the impacted area and has not identified any concerns raised by stakeholders.

**Conroe Creosoting Superfund Site, Conroe, Texas**

On July 27, EPA, the Department of Justice, TCEQ and Conroe Logistics Center, LLC (Conroe) signed a Bona Fide Prospective Purchaser agreement for the Conroe Creosoting Superfund Site in Conroe, Texas (the Site). Conroe plans to purchase and redevelop the Site but is concerned about potential liability. Under the terms of the agreement, Conroe will perform a response action in return for expanded liability protection. Conroe closed on the purchase of the Site on July 29, and R6 notified the parties that the agreement is fully executed.

**City of Houston, Harris County, Texas**

By July 31, the Motion to Enter, including response to comments, is projected to be filed with the district court. If the Court enters the consent decree, this will resolve the judicial case. The consent decree orders Houston to pay a civil penalty of \$4.4 million and requires extensive injunctive relief to address SSOs and permit effluent limit violations.

**El Paso Gas Company Laguna Compressor Station, Laguna, New Mexico**

R6 approved the final permit renewal, basis of decision, and a Response to Comments (RTC) document for El Paso Gas Company Laguna Compressor Station. The Public Comment period ended on June 19 with no request for a public hearing, but EPNG submitted several minor comments requesting changes to the permit and an RTC document is being finalized.

**San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site, Harris County, Texas**

On July 31, R6 will send a letter to the San Jacinto River Fleet (SJRF) regarding a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permit they received in April 2020. R6 was concerned that work under the USACE permit may adversely impact the remedy for the Superfund site and had submitted comments on this concern during the public comment on the draft permit. The letter to the SJRF sets forth procedures R6 believes are necessary to minimize the potential for permitted activities to cause releases of Site-related wastes and to prevent interference with implementation of the Site remedy. On July 29, R6 participated in a San Jacinto River Waste Pits community advisory committee meeting. During the meeting, R6 provided an update on the remedial designs submitted by the responsible parties following pre-design investigations.

**Choctaw Durant Casino & Resort, Durant, Oklahoma**

Public Notice for a draft permit is planned for July 31. Choctaw Casino & Resort electronically applied for a minor NSR permit for its existing Casino and planned expansion. A notification letter to the Chickasaw Nation was sent on July 24, and a tribal consultation letter was signed on July 27. R6 is drafting the minor NSR Permit for the Casino's new emergency generators and boilers. The minor NSR permit will be posted as public notice on R6's website.

**Oil and Gas Pipelines Decommissioning, Gulf of Mexico**

R6 and the Department of Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) met regarding the decommissioning of oil and gas pipelines within the Gulf of Mexico. Some actions regarding these pipelines are before BSEE with the proposal by the pipeline owners to leave the structures in place with some residual product/chemicals. R6 has clarified the requirements under the Clean Water Act in regard to regulated discharges.

**Upcoming Major Decisions and Events****Tar Creek Superfund Site, Oklahoma**

On July 31, R6 intends to approve the Five-Year Review and protectiveness determinations for the Tar Creek Superfund site, Operable Units 1, 2, and 4. Additional language and a recommendation has been added to the five-year review report to address EPA's compliance with the Off-site Rule for chat sales.

**Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico**

R6 intends to approve LANL's change in scope of the planned controlled venting of Tritium contaminated waste containers. This project is part of LANL's plan to manage tritium waste for transport and permanent off-site disposal. The venting operation must comply with the Radionuclide

NESHAP and receive NMED temporary authorization. DOE has built in monitoring and operational safeguards to ensure the standard is met. DOE Readiness Review are currently underway and the project should take place in September 2020. Tribal interest has been high.

#### **Texas Construction Permit SIP, Texas**

TCEQ will be adopting the proposed revisions to the Texas SIP to allow for construction prior to permit amendment issuance for certain minor NSR permit actions. Our rulemaking action is being proposed in parallel with the state's rulemaking action. TCEQ anticipates adoption of the final SIP revision in July 2020, with the SIP revision submitted in August 2020.

#### **Albuquerque NSPS and NESHAP, New Mexico**

On July 30, R6 intends to propose approval of the request to update delegation of certain NSPS and the NESHAP standards, except for sources located in Indian Country.

July 30	EPA/IOGCC Task Force (Virtual)
August 4	Louisiana AWMA Luncheon (Virtual)
August 5	US/Mexico Border groundbreaking \$4.5M Presidio Water Project with Congressman Hurd (Virtual)
August 6	Texas Environmental SuperConference (Virtual)
August 12	US/Mexico Border construction completion \$2M Marathon Water Project with Congressman Hurd (Virtual)

## Region 7

### Hot Topics

Children's Mercy Hospital Presented a Lunch-and-Learn Webinar for the Springfield Medical Association (Springfield, Missouri)

Key Message: On July 27, Dr. Friedman from Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units of Children Mercy Hospital, in Kansas City, Missouri, presented a webinar to representatives of the Springfield Medical Association on promoting lead screening for children in Springfield, Missouri.

Description:

- Approximately five individuals attended the webinar.
- This outreach activity was originally planned as an in-person event as part of the Springfield Lead Geographic Initiative but was instead turned into a webinar because of the current health emergency.

R7 Hosted a Conference Call Between the Department of Housing and Urban Development and The One Stop for Early Childhood (Springfield, Missouri)

Key Message: On July 27, R7 staff organized and hosted a Microsoft Teams call between The One Stop for Early Childhood and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Description:

- The One Stop of Early Childhood is a group of community organizations that work in areas related to children's health in Springfield, Missouri.
- The purpose of the conference call was to provide our HUD colleagues an opportunity to connect with the community organizations to address lead risk prevention and mitigation.
- This is the first of a series of conference calls R7 is planning to coordinate and host for its colleagues in HUD.

R7 Issued a Press Release Noting its Support of the States of Kansas and Nebraska Assessing Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Contamination

Key Message: R7 issued a press release noting its support of the states of Kansas and Nebraska's environmental agencies with technical and/or financial assistance to assess the extent of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances contamination.

Description:

- These efforts are part of a nationwide initiative by the Agency to help states, tribes, and local communities target the reduction of PFAS contamination and protect public health.

R7 On-Scene Coordinators Responded to a Mercury Release (Ballwin, Missouri)

Key Message: On July 24, R7 On-Scene Coordinators responded to a mercury release caused by a broken "antique" barometer in Ballwin, Missouri.

Description:

- A citizen brought three antique barometers to a recycling center by vehicle.
- The recycling center accidentally dropped one of the barometers while removing it from the vehicle, resulting in mercury release into the vehicle.
- The release was exacerbated by the recycling center using a leaf blower to remove residual mercury from the vehicle, as well as the citizen who potentially tracked residual mercury to multiple locations over several days.

- On-Scene Coordinators screened the recycling center, the citizen's home, and the vehicle for mercury vapors.
- As of July 28, the vehicle decontamination is still ongoing, but all other areas have been cleared.

R7 Continues to Work with the Principle Responsible Parties to Design the Investigation Workplan for the West Lake Landfill Site (Bridgeton, Missouri)

Key Message: R7 continues to work with the West Lake Landfill PRPs on development of an acceptable OU-1 design investigation workplan.

Description:

- On July 13, R7 approved (with modifications) a portion of the June 5, OU-1 design investigation work plan to specify the location of required perimeter borings.
- In that same letter, R7 disapproved the remainder of the document and the associated quality assurance project plan, field sampling plan and data management plan.
- Since the field investigation cannot begin until the plans are approved by R7, field work is now anticipated to begin in the fall.
- The PRPs submitted the requested modifications on July 27.
- R7 and the PRPs working together to ensure all of R7's concerns were addressed.
- The PRPs' initial field work continues for OU-3.
  - Existing monitoring wells are being identified, pumps are being checked and water levels measured. Surface water measurement equipment is being installed in surface water bodies in the area.

#### Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Title: On August 3, R7's Watershed and Grants Branch will Host the Annual Four State and Tribes Nonpoint Source Tribal Meeting (Virtual)

Key Message: On August 3, R7's Watersheds and Grants Branch will host the annual nonpoint source meeting for all four states and all tribes.

Description:

- The meeting will begin the afternoon on August 3; and conclude the afternoon of August 6.
- Key topics include tracks on regenerative agriculture, harmful algae bloom mitigation and response updates, and a virtual tour of various projects implemented by the programs.



**Region 8**Hot Topics**Petition on North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality Clean Air Act Title V Permit for Otter Tail Power Company – Coyote Station (Coyote Station)**

On July 23, the EPA Administrator received a petition from the Braaten Law Firm on behalf of Casey and Julie Voigt regarding the state-issued Title V renewal permit for Coyote Station. Coyote Station is a lignite-fired, electric generating plant that receives coal from the neighboring coal mine – Coyote Creek Mining Company, LLC. R8 is reviewing the petition with Headquarters (OAQPS and OGC). The regulatory timeframe for the EPA to issue a response order is 60 days.

**FIFRA Team to Conduct Joint Inspections with Colorado at Frontier Airlines and Pure Maintenance of Colorado**

This week, R8 conducted joint inspections with the Colorado Department of Agriculture at Frontier Airlines and Pure Maintenance of Colorado. Frontier Airlines claims to fog their airplanes regularly with viricides to disinfect their planes. The inspections included observations of the fogging and related compliance assistance. Pure Maintenance of Colorado is a disinfectant service provider that was issued an Advisory in April regarding their misuse of disinfectants and making false claims. The inspection was an observation of their current disinfection practices.

**Partial Water Outage at Wyola Water System on the Crow Reservation in Montana**

On July 22, R8 received a complaint regarding a water outage in Wyola, MT. Two properties (approximately 10 people) were without water service on July 24. The water system has inadequate well production to serve these properties. No formal Boil Order was issued. Wyola Water staff were told to inform residents not to drink the water once water service/pressure returns and to disinfect and flush the distribution system once water service returns and to collect bacterial samples. R8 is following up with the tribe to ensure that bottled drinking water and water for other household uses is provided to the residents until the water system is safe. Indian Health Services (IHS) plans to drill another well for the system and R8 will continue to coordinate with IHS.

**R8 Awards Grant under the Columbia River Basin Restoration Program to Monitor Fish for Mercury and Evaluate Consumption Impact on Tribal Members**

Under the Columbia River Basin Restoration Program, the University of Montana was awarded a grant for \$128,992 to assess fish consumption on the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) reservation and to evaluate mercury contamination of Flathead Lake fish and the possible impact to Food Pantry clients who receive the fish. The R8 grant is a cooperative agreement where R8 staff will assist with survey review, sampling design, and data review.

**TSCA Enforcement Section Issues an Expedited Settlement Agreement (ESA) Final Order to Resolve TSCA Lead Based Paint Violations with Sterling Steel LLC**

On July 22, an ESA between the EPA and Sterling Steel LLC was issued to resolve Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule violations resulting from an April 2019 jobsite inspection involving a home renovation in Denver, CO. The settlement included a \$2,000 penalty for failure to assign a certified renovator to the project and failure to maintain proper records documenting compliance on renovations including lead testing.

**R8 and UTDEQ Issue Joint Notice of Violation (NOV) to Crescent Point Energy U.S. Corp and CH4-Finley Operating, LLC**

R8 issued a joint NOV with the State of Utah to Crescent Point Energy U.S. Corp (Crescent Point) and CH4-Finley Operating LLC (CH4-Finley) for alleged Clean Air Act violations at CH4-Finley's oil and natural gas production operations located in the Uinta Basin. EPA and the State provide CH4-Finley and Crescent Point an opportunity to confer with the EPA and the UDAQ regarding these alleged violations.

**Update for Eagle Mine Superfund Site, Minturn, Colorado**

On July 27, there was a small volume release of sedimentation and water from the Adit 5 tunnel at Eagle Mine caused by disturbance of an unknown sandbag dam during routine maintenance activities. The release reached the Eagle River. Viacom CBS's contractor submitted a spill report to the Colorado Spill Line. Viacom CBS's contractor also notified the Eagle River Water and Sanitation District Director as a courtesy, as she felt that this was a minor incident. Although this was a maintenance-related release that involved a small volume of water, notification was sent to our community Stakeholder Group.

**FIFRA Enforcement Section issues a Stop Sale Use and Removal Order (SSURO) to Karacide, LLC to Stop Distribution of a Cancelled Pesticide**

On July 21, FIFRA Enforcement Section issued a SSURO to Karacide, LLC to stop the distribution of a pesticide with a cancelled EPA registration. Karacide, LLC, located in Sioux Falls, SD, was producing and distributing Karacide Algaecide, EPA Reg. No. 41399-1. The EPA determined that Karacide Algaecide is a pesticide with a cancelled registration. Therefore, the sale or distribution of this product violates FIFRA since it is unlawful to sell or distribute a pesticide that is cancelled and not registered with the EPA.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

R8 is hosting a virtual Regional Tribal Operations Committee meeting the week of August 3.

**Region 9**Hot Topics**Decision on Kettleman Hills PCB Application**

On July 29, we signed the final approval of Chemical Waste Management's application to renew and modify its TSCA PCB permit for the Kettleman Hills Facility. The approval allows for additional PCB waste to be disposed in the existing State-approved hazardous waste landfill. After proposing the approval last August, we opened a public 85-day comment period and held a public meeting and public hearing in Kettleman City to gather public comments. We received written or spoken comments from 23 individuals or groups, and our final action includes responses to each comment received. We provided notice of a final approval to all commenters, other stakeholders, and the public through a press notice, emails, mailings, and EPA's Kettleman Hills website.

**Cocopah Landfill Site-Specific Flexibility**

On July 27, we signed and submitted for publishing in the Federal Register a final rule approving two Site-Specific Flexibility Requests sought by Republic Services, Incorporated. Republic is preparing to close the Cocopah Landfill and the rule approves (1) use of an alternative final cover and (2) use of an alternative location for storage of facility records. The Cocopah Landfill is a commercial municipal solid waste landfill that Republic and its predecessors operated from the 1960's to the present on the Cocopah Indian Tribe's reservation in Arizona. We anticipate the rule will publish in the Federal Register the week of August 3. EPA received no comments on the proposed rule.

**Battle Mountain Band**

R9 is preparing to take noncompliance action against the Battle Mountain Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians. The Tribe failed to comply with Federal grant regulations and corresponding terms and conditions. These issues include the expenditure of funds for work that was not completed by the Tribe, the failure to submit deliverables, and potentially the lack of internal financial controls. The Grants Branch and Tribal Branch are working to determine the extent of the violations in preparation for sending a letter of noncompliance.

**Improper Payment Proposed Resolution for Yurok Tribe Submitted to OCFO**

The Grants Branch reviewed additional support documentation and information provided by the Yurok Tribe in response to their FY20 Improper Payment Review initiated by OCFO. OCFO's review resulted in a determination of \$71,537.56 of questioned costs due to missing timesheets and invoices related to personnel, travel, training, supplies, and equipment expenses. R9 has determined Yurok Tribe provided adequate documentation and explanatory information justifying these expenses as allowable costs and submitted the proposed resolution and additional supporting documentation to OCFO for approval.

**USS Bonhomme Richard, San Diego, California**

This week, R9 OSCs continued coordination with the Navy OSC regarding the ship integrity and disposition and plans for disposal of contaminated fire water. The Navy ship structural assessment has been completed and the ship has been determined to be sound. It is unknown when the fuel will be offloaded. The Navy plans to transfer contaminated fire water into Baker tanks on shore this week, while it awaits analytical results.

### **Section 32/33 Alternative Analysis Memo**

This week, the R9 Tronox team is providing comments to their R6 counterparts for the Alternatives Analysis Memo (AAM) for the Section 32/33 Navajo Abandoned Uranium Mine site, a part of which is on Navajo allotment land and a part of which is on private State of New Mexico land. The AAM evaluates clean-up options for the site. Comments are focused on areas of technical consistency

### **California NPDES Permit Quality Review**

Last week, we shared the final California NPDES Permit Quality Review (PQR) reports with the State Water Board. PQRs are an evaluation of a set of NPDES permits and are based on national standardized evaluation criteria. In this PQR cycle, we evaluated 20 NPDES permits from California. We found that permits and fact sheets in California were generally of good quality; however, we recommended action items associated with consistency of toxicity requirements, reasonable potential analysis, and federal standard conditions requirements in NPDES permits. The final report will be posted on EPA's national PQR website.

### **Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**

#### **Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) Designation**

We will request the RA's signature on August 13, on a "120-day letter" to the Governor of Hawaii notifying him of our intended designation for Honolulu County to attainment/unclassifiable for the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> standard. EPA is required to notify a state of any intended modifications at least 120 days prior to promulgation of the final designation.

#### **Pacific Islands**

We are hosting a virtual version of the Pacific Islands Environment Directors Meeting August 3 – August 5. Regional Administrator John Busterud will provide opening comments. The biannual meeting typically attracts 25-30 senior managers and other key personnel from US-affiliated Pacific Islands to interact with R9 and OITA management and staff as well as with each other. This virtual meeting replaces the in-person meeting originally scheduled for July 14 – July 16, in San Francisco and postponed due to COVID.

**Region 10**Hot Topics**Cleanup Starts at Former Kaiser Aluminum Smelter Near Spokane, WA**

On July 27, R10 began a large time critical removal action at the former Kaiser Smelter in Mead, WA. The action will address PCBs, asbestos and heavy metals from years of industrial use, and it is expected to take several months to complete. The cleanup is estimated to cost approximately \$6 million. The Washington Department of Ecology requested EPA's assistance in addressing the site, and in particular the discharge of PCBs into Deadman Creek and eventually the Spokane River. In addition, R10 issued a Unilateral Administrative Order to the owner of an adjacent property associated with the former Kaiser Smelter where contaminated sediment from a storm water system servicing the smelter property has accumulated. The work to be completed under the enforcement order complements the actions being taken by EPA and is intended to eliminate the release of PCBs and other contaminants to Deadman Creek which ultimately discharges to the Spokane River.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

**R10 Administrator Participates in Regional Tribal Operations Committee:** On August 4, R10 Administrator, Chris Hladick will participate virtually in the regularly scheduled R10 Tribal Operations Committee meeting. Representatives from the headquarters offices of OITA and AIEO will also participate.

**Litigation Update: Bristol Bay, Clean Water Act Withdrawal of Proposed Determination**

On July 22, EPA filed its answering brief in the Ninth Circuit in the Bristol Bay Clean Water Act 404(c) proposed determination withdrawal litigation. EPA argued that the District Court of Alaska correctly dismissed Trout Unlimited and other plaintiffs' lawsuit on the basis that EPA's decision to withdraw the proposed determination was an agency action committed to agency discretion by law under the Administrative Procedure Act, akin to an enforcement action, and therefore unreviewable. Appellant Trout Unlimited's reply brief is due July 29, and oral argument is scheduled for August 12.

**Northport Soil Removal (Northport, WA)**

In early August, R10 staff will begin conducting a time-critical removal action to clean up lead contaminated soil on 15 properties in Northport, WA. The town of Northport is situated within the Upper Columbia River Site remedial investigation and feasibility study project area in northeast Washington state. The Northport properties include residential properties and a park where soils have been contaminated by hazardous substances, including lead, from smelting operations and construction practices using mine-waste contaminated materials. EPA is working with property owners, the Mayor of Northport and Town Council, Washington State Department of Ecology, NE Tri-County Health Department and the Colville Confederated Tribes Archaeology Program to coordinate cleanup activities that are estimated to take 8 to 10 weeks to complete. Actions will focus on lawns, gardens and community play areas with a high likelihood of exposure to contaminated soil.

**Presentation to Oregon Hazard Mitigation Managers**

On August 5, FEMA R10 will hold its annual meeting with Oregon State Mitigation Partners. FEMA has asked EPA R10 to present about EPA opportunities nationally and in Oregon to collaborate with FEMA on natural hazard mitigation planning under the FEMA/EPA MOA. The effort to connect EPA work with FEMA, being promoted nationally by the EPA HQ Offices of Water and Office of

Community Revitalization, includes our work on green infrastructure and habitat under our nonpoint source, National Estuary, and other programs.

**Wildfire and Air Quality Resources Shared with Northwest Tribal Health Directors**

On July 28, the R10 Tribal Air Team participated in a virtual convening of the Northwest Tribal Health Directors, organized by the NW Portland Area Indian Health Board. EPA was invited to share information about the smoke season potential, resources for preparedness as it relates to air quality, and indoor air considerations during the pandemic. Over 80 people joined and learned about EPA resources, the role of tribal air programs, and tools/support available on wildfires and air quality.

**Stibnite-Midas Gold Administrative Order on Consent and USFS draft EIS**

On July 28, EPA held a government-to-government consultation with the Nez Perce Tribe to discuss the AOC framework that EPA is negotiating with Midas-Gold. OECA AA Susan Bodine led the consultation with support from other EPA HQ offices and EPA R10 Regional Administrator and staff. On a separate track, the USFS draft EIS is scheduled to be released for public and agency review on August 14. The USFS is planning virtual EIS comment meetings.

**Call for Community Input: Siting Criteria for Lower Coeur d'Alene Basin Waste Consolidation Areas (ID):** R10 is calling for community input on criteria for siting new Waste Consolidation Areas in the Lower Coeur d'Alene River Basin. The WCAs will take in and securely contain contaminated materials from Lower Basin cleanup activities. EPA's goal is to have one or more Lower Basin WCAs ready by 2024.

## Office of Air and Radiation

### Hot Topics

- **Packages for Signature:**
  - Technical Correction to the Flex-fuel Vehicle Provisions in CAFE Regulations (DFR and NPRM)
  - Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources and Emission Guidelines for Existing Sources: Other Solid Waste Incineration (OSWI) Units Review (NPRM)
  - Plantwide Applicability Limitation (Final Guidance)
- **Packages at OMB for Review:**
  - Biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> (Proposed Rule: RECEIVED February 24)
  - 2021 RFS Rule (Proposed Rule: RECEIVED May 13)
  - Amendments Related to Marine Diesel Engine Emission Standards (Final Rule: RECEIVED May 15)
  - Oil and Gas Sector Reconsideration (Final Rule: RECEIVED June 2)
  - Oil and Gas Sector Review (Final Rule: RECEIVED June 2)
  - NESHAP Amendment: General Provisions for Once In Always In (Final Rule: RECEIVED July 16)
  - Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) and Nonattainment New Source Review (NSR): Project Emissions Accounting (Final Rule: RECEIVED July 24)
- **Packages Heading to OMB Soon**
  - Alaska Remote Generators Report to Congress
  - Review of GHG Emissions from New, Modified, and Reconstructed Stationary Sources (Final Rule)
  - Residential Wood Heaters NSPS (final rule - amendment)
  - Storage Vessels Amendment (NPRM)

### Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

#### **Texas Environmental Superconference**

Next week on Friday, August 7, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator Anne Austin will participate in the Texas Environmental Superconference, giving a presentation (via teleconference) on OAR activities.

#### **Webinar on Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Considerations to Assist Tribes in Re-Opening Tribal Buildings**

On Wednesday, July 29, the National Tribal Air Association's Indoor Air Quality Work Group will host an informational webinar titled: IAQ Considerations to Assist Tribes in Re-Opening Tribal Buildings - An Overview of COVID in the Workplace and Funding for Tribes. Staff from EPA's Office of Air and Radiation will provide an overview of EPA IAQ resources, including publicly available resources that are available through the agency's COVID-19 website, [ [HYPERLINK "http://www.epa.gov/coronavirus"](http://www.epa.gov/coronavirus) ]. EPA staff will also highlight the recently published [ [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/indoor-air-and-coronavirus-covid-19"](https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/indoor-air-and-coronavirus-covid-19) ] content as well as information

about the upcoming Tools for Schools webinar series *Healthy Indoor Environments in Schools: Plans, Practices and Principles for Maintaining Healthy Learning Environments*.

**Technical Webinar Series: Healthy Indoor Environments in Schools: Plans, Practices and Principles for Maintaining Healthy Learning Environments**

OAR/ORIA will host and facilitate a series of 3 technical webinars for school-based stakeholders to share best practices for maintaining good indoor air quality, with a focus on heating/ventilation/air conditioning systems; cleaning and maintenance procedures to aid schools in implementing recent CDC guidance; creating a proactive, comprehensive indoor air quality management plan that addresses the range of indoor environmental issues common in the school setting.

July 30      Let's Clear the Air: Using Ventilation Practices to Promote Healthy IAQ in Schools

Aug 6        Cleaning for Health: Proactive Plans to Effectively Clean and Promote Healthy IAQ in Schools

Aug 13      What Schools Need to Know: Practices and Principles for Healthy IAQ and Reducing the Spread of Viruses

**New Indoor Air and Coronavirus Web Content**

On July 17, new content on [ HYPERLINK "<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/indoor-air-and-coronavirus-covid-19>" ] was posted to the EPA coronavirus website. This content supplements previously posted [ HYPERLINK "<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/frequent-questions-about-indoor-air-and-coronavirus-covid-19>" ] about indoor air and COVID-19. This new web content provides more detailed information about the potential spread of COVID-19 through airborne transmission indoors and steps that can be taken to reduce potential airborne transmission of COVID-19. ([ HYPERLINK "<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/indoor-air-and-coronavirus-covid-19>" ])



**Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention**Hot Topics**List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)**

During the week of July 27, OCSPP completed the review of testing data against SARS-CoV-2 for 13 products already on List N. There are now 15 total products that have been tested against SARS-CoV-2 on List N. The registrant for each such product may now list the claim on the product label, easing the public's ability to find disinfectants for use against SARS-CoV-2.

**Afidopyropen Section 18 Request for the Nevada Department of Agriculture**

On July 29, OCSPP approved a Section 18 request for the Nevada Department of Agriculture to the use of the active ingredient, afidopyropen, to control the blue alfalfa aphid (*Acyrtosiphon kondoi*) on alfalfa. This approval allows alfalfa growers in Nevada to apply the registered product, Sefin Insecticide (EPA Reg. No. 7969-391, containing 4.89% afidopyropen), to a maximum of 25,000 acres of alfalfa in Nevada during the use season that concludes on May 30, 2021. EPA has determined this is an urgent and non-routine situation that could otherwise result in a 25% yield loss of alfalfa. OCSPP is currently reviewing a Section 3 petition for this use pattern.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**Proposed Rule for Plant-Incorporated Protectants (PIPs) Undergoing FIFRA Review**

Last week, OCSPP initiated FIFRA Section 25(a) external agency review for the proposed rule for PIPs. As required, OCSPP sent the draft rule to USDA, select Congressional committees, and the FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) 60 days prior to publication. OCSPP also must publish a Federal Register notice that the rule has been sent to USDA for review. Following FIFRA review, OCSPP anticipates publishing the NPRM in October. This deregulatory action proposes to exempt certain PIPs created through biotechnology by adding new exemptions from FIFRA and an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance under FFDCA. No statutory deadlines apply to this action.

**Public Comment Period on Cuprous Iodide Draft Ecological Risk Assessment**

During the week of August 3, OCSPP will open a 30-day public comment period on the Cuprous Iodide Draft Ecological Risk Assessment. Cuprous iodide is an active ingredient in the material preservative Cupron Cuprous Iodide Masterbatch, which suppresses the growth of algae, mold, mildew, fungi and bacteria from manufactured products such as bedding, apparel and outerwear. OCSPP has determined that cuprous iodide is not expected to pose a discernable threat to terrestrial and aquatic organisms.

**1-bromopropane (1-BP) Final Risk Evaluation (RE)**

On August 4, OCSPP will release the final RE for 1-BP. This will be the second of the first 10 final REs released under amended TSCA. 1-BP is used as a solvent in commercial and industrial applications and as a reactant in the manufacturing of other chemical substances. Consumer uses include adhesives, sealants, degreasers, cleaners, and automobile care products. The final RE shows that there are unreasonable risks to workers, occupational non-users, consumers, and bystanders under 16 out of 25 conditions of use. OCSPP expects this action to result in similar public response as the publication of the RE for methylene chloride.

### **Virtual Environmental Modeling Public Meeting (EMPM)**

On August 5, OCSPP will host its annual EMPM meeting, a public forum for EPA, pesticide registrants, and other stakeholders to discuss issues related to modeling pesticide fate, transport and exposure for pesticide risk assessments. This year's EMPM will include presentations on drinking water assessment improvements for surface water exposure. EPA will present information on its framework for conducting drinking water assessments and information on new methodologies.

### **Nootkatone Final Registration Decision**

During the week of August 10, OCSPP plans to publish the final registration decision for Nootkatone, a new biopesticide ingredient discovered and developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for future use in insect repellent and pesticide products for protecting people and pets from mosquitoes and ticks. The public comment period for the proposed registration decision closed July 14. OCSPP plans to issue a press release with a joint statement from CDC and FDA.

### **Availability of TSCA SACC Perchloroethylene Meeting Minutes and Final Report**

During the week of August 10, OCSPP will announce the availability of the Toxic Substances Control Act Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (TSCA SACC) Meeting Minutes and Final Report from the May 26 – May 29, meeting to peer review the draft risk evaluation for perchloroethylene. The report will be available in the public docket and on the TSCA SACC meeting website.

**Office of the Chief Financial Officer**Hot Topics

On July 24, OCFO briefed the Acting Deputy Administrator on FY 2022 OMB Submission options based on the July 14, SLC Budget Forum and the NPM Multi-Year Plan survey responses. OCFO is briefing the Administrator on Friday, July 31. Based on the Administrator's decisions, OCFO will send OMB Submission guidance to the agency in early August to meet OMB's early September due date.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

The E-Enterprise for the Environment Bulletin has cleared OCFO and OPA review and will be published this week. The Bulletin features the EELC tribal co-chair, Kari Jacobson Hedin, as the "spotlight" for this quarterly edition.

EPA senior leaders and Environmental Council of the States officers will meet on August 3 to discuss ways to advance shared state/agency priorities and address implementation issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic as part of FY 2022 planning and budgeting process and final year of FY 2018-2022 EPA Strategic Plan. OCFO and OITA also are working together to schedule a similar meeting with National Tribal Council later in August.

The next E-Enterprise for the Environment monthly webinar is scheduled for August 6, from 1 – 3 PM ET and will feature [ HYPERLINK

"https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.eenationalmeeting.net%2Faugust-2020&data=02%7C01%7CWeekly\_Report\_Group%40epa.gov%7C6924922e045a4c47144a08d833fd6dab%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637316510841664761&sdata=EZR1wFMZ8nc7S0VsLZ4U1JbuucRd3U13c1FVgaDgLuA%3D&reserved=0" ]. More information, including registration, can be found at [ HYPERLINK

"https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.eenationalmeeting.net%2Fwebinars&data=02%7C01%7CWeekly\_Report\_Group%40epa.gov%7C6924922e045a4c47144a08d833fd6dab%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637316510841664761&sdata=qSiWclYdnb82fadRXLZ0J3ZIYds7LO2WprWENBEOUYM%3D&reserved=0" ].

On August 7, OCFO will provide FY 2020 Q3 Agency Priority Goal Action Plans to OMB. Lead programs described progress towards FY 2020 results for four of the six APGs—we missed the Q3 nonattainment APG target by one (expect to exceed Q4 target), and we missed Q3 targets for permit backlog metrics and are not on track for Q4.

OCFO briefed the Chief Operating Officer on July 30 on draft materials for the upcoming FY 2020 Q3 Administrator's Quarterly Performance Review, tentatively set for August 11.

Each AA and RA must submit his or her hand- or digitally-signed FY 2020 assurance letter to the Administrator by August 17. These letters support the Administrator's statement of assurance to the President and Congress.

GAO and OIG Audits and Activities

The following tables summarize new agency OIG and GAO audits and other related activities since the last report through July 24.

OIG Audits – Week Ending 7/24/2020				
Audit #	Title	Status	Office	Next Steps/Comments
None				
GAO Audits – Week Ending 7/24/2020				
Audit Phase	Title	Office	Engagement/Report No.	Next Steps/Comments
Entrance Conference	Agencies' Use of Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plans in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic	OMS/OLEM	Engagement Code 104295	OCIR and OGC opted to provide written responses to GAO's data call in lieu of an Entrance Conference. Responses are due by 8/14/2020.
	Implementation of Deregulatory Actions	OP	Engagement Code 104305	The Entrance Conference is scheduled for 8/7/2020.
Exit Conference	Contamination from Certain Man-Made Chemicals (Formerly PFAS)	OW, OCSPP, OLEM	Engagement Code 103982	The Exit Conference is scheduled for 8/13/2020.
	GAO Cost-Benefit Methodologies for Deregulatory Actions	OP	Engagement Code 104220	On 7/23/2020, GAO requested an Exit Conference for the week of 8/3/2020.
Statement of Facts	Lead and Copper Rule	OA	Engagement Code 103512	The Statement of Facts was received on 7/22/2020.
Draft Report	Child Care Facilities: Federal Agencies Need to Enhance Monitoring and Collaboration to Help Assure Drinking Water is Safe from Lead	OA/OW	Report no. GAO-20-597 Engagement Code 103241	The report contains 2 recommendations for OW. The formal response is due to GAO by 8/17/2020.

#### Other

OCFO encourages agency personnel to participate in upcoming semi-annual role-based PeoplePlus training sessions for which materials have recently been updated. Go to the [ [HYPERLINK](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.office.com%2FPages%2FResponsePage.aspx%3Fid%3Ds3iziEhnZ0is-Xaqy-ymp-2F9jGcfENJiv5NNfbAy9FUREpEOTVVWU5ZSDVYSEpVVU4yME4wWTVWNCQIQCN0PWcu&data=02%7C01%7CWeekly_Report_Group%40epa.gov%7C6924922e045a4c47144a08d833fd6dab%7C88b378b367484867acf976a) "https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.office.com%2FPages%2FResponsePage.aspx%3Fid%3Ds3iziEhnZ0is-Xaqy-ymp-2F9jGcfENJiv5NNfbAy9FUREpEOTVVWU5ZSDVYSEpVVU4yME4wWTVWNCQIQCN0PWcu&data=02%7C01%7CWeekly\_Report\_Group%40epa.gov%7C6924922e045a4c47144a08d833fd6dab%7C88b378b367484867acf976a

acbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637316510841674724&sdata=%2FP1MeyllaSfAEzbZB8oUbFrGp7PgCervf%2BynM0fg  
y1A%3D&reserved=0" ] to register for the appropriate time and attendance system training session(s):

August 6	PeoplePlus Supervisor training; and
August 13	PeoplePlus Employee training.

## Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

### Hot Topics

Nothing to Report.

### Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Ongoing</b>              | COVID-19-tracking Congressional and state and local inquiries of national significance   |
| <b>Aug. 3</b>               | House T&I/WRE subcommittee TA conference call on the Bubbly Creek Restoration Project.   |
| <b>Aug. 6</b>               | At 3:00-4:00 pm ET, ORD will host an EPA Tools & Resources training webinar on PFAS Removal in Drinking Water Treatment Systems. |
| <b>Aug. 11 -<br/>Aug 13</b> | Mission Support Division Directors In-Person Meeting   |

## **Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance**

### Hot Topics

#### **Resolving Violations at an Aerospace Facility at Fort Belvoir**

On July 28, OECA approved a modified mitigation strategy pursuant to an Administrative Compliance Order on Consent to resolve violations under the Clean Air Act at an aerospace facility at Fort Belvoir. The new mitigation strategy, developed with R3, will reduce the time needed to offset previous excess emissions by 3.7 years, and result in nine new Tier-IV certified emergency generators.

#### **Meet and Greet with OECA Summer Law Clerks and Interns**

On July 27, OECA AA and DAAs met via Teams with OECA Summer law clerks and interns. This summer, OECA hosted 32 interns in law school, graduate school, and undergraduate studies. Students shared what projects they have been working on this summer and had the opportunity to ask questions of the AA and DAAs.

### Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

On August 6, attorneys in OECA's Office of Civil Enforcement will join attorneys from Office of General Counsel and Offices of Regional Counsel on a panel on Legal Careers at the EPA hosted by the Environmental Law Institute.

**Office of General Counsel**Hot Topics***Meritor, Inc. v. EPA*, No. 18-1325 (D.C. Cir. July 28)**

New Decision: The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals denied Meritor Inc.'s petition challenging EPA's placement of the Rockwell International Wheel & Trim Site in Grenada, Mississippi on the National Priorities List (NPL). The court upheld the Agency's application of the Hazard Ranking System (HRS) to score the site above the 28.5 numerical threshold for NPL eligibility. The court rejected all three arguments raised by Meritor.

***Gunpowder Riverkeeper v. EPA*, (D.C.C. filed July 29)**

New Litigation: The Gunpowder Riverkeeper filed a complaint challenging EPA's October 3, 2016 approval of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) submitted by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in the Gunpowder and Bird Rivers in Baltimore County, Maryland. The complaint alleges that EPA failed to perform a mandatory duty to disapprove a TMDL that does not meet CWA requirements. The complaint also alleges that EPA's approval of the TMDL violated the Administrative Procedure Act (APA).

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**Oral Argument**

On Tuesday, July 28, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments in *LULAC v. Wheeler*, No. 19-71979. The case involves a challenge of chlorpyrifos tolerances under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA). In 2007, Petitioners filed a petition with EPA, requesting that all chlorpyrifos tolerances be revoked, alleging that they are unsafe due to neurodevelopmental effects in children, among other things. In March 2017, EPA denied that petition on the grounds that safety of the tolerances would be determined in a contemporaneous registration review conducted pursuant to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Petitioners filed objections to that March 2017 Order, which EPA denied in July 2019, primarily on the grounds that the information provided with the original petition was not sufficiently complete, valid, and reliable to support the original petition's claim that the tolerances were not safe. The oral argument on Tuesday concerned the July 2019 denial.



**Office of International and Tribal Affairs**Hot Topics**U.S.-UK Free Trade Agreement Update**

EPA (OITA, OAR, OCSPP and OGC) are participating in the third round of US-UK FTA negotiations from July 27 - August 7. EPA is participating in negotiations on several chapters, including investment, good regulatory practices, technical barriers to trade, sectoral annexes, state-owned enterprises, core legal provisions and environment. The environment session will be focused on presentations by both countries regarding the roles and responsibilities of national, state and other levels of government in establishing, implementing and enforcing domestic environmental standards – EPA will be presenting on our role in implementing the Clean Air Act. USTR has not yet released the text for the environment chapter, but it will be based on the USMCA provisions. One of the issues crucial to the EPA negotiations will be in the chemicals annex regarding the reliance on a hazard- or risk-based system of identifying and managing chemical risks.

**Uruguay Requests for EPA Technical Assistance**

In February 2020, Administrator Wheeler served as the head of the U.S. delegation to the inauguration of Uruguay's new President-elect Luis Lacalle Pou. As a follow up to that visit, the U.S. Embassy has informed EPA that the law to establish the new Ministry of Environment was approved by Uruguay's Congress and the new Minister of Environment, Adrian Pena, has been named. Uruguay has identified the following areas of interest for technical assistance and OITA will be following up with the relevant offices:

- Water quality management targeted in two basins - 1) Santa Lucia which serves as a water source for the Montevideo metropolitan area and is at risk due to agricultural activity and waste; and 2) Rio Negro which will be used for energy generation and waste from a pulp mill plant.
- Waste management- ideas/technologies for waste and recycling to improve infrastructure, equipment, and tools to address waste management; and how to implement the residue and recycling law and improve public participation.
- Ministry transition — as Uruguay prepares to establish the new Ministry of Environment, they want to hear EPA's lessons learned on ministry structure and other organizational issues.
- Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group

AIEO Director Scott Mason participated on the Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group (ICEIWG) call. Director Mason provided information related to EPA's role in energy related activities and on the CEQ's proposed NEPA rule. The ICEIWG works with DOE's Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs to assist in surveys, analysis, and recommendations related to energy program and policy initiatives. The ICEIWG brings government and tribal leaders together to collaborate and gain insight into real-time tribal experiences representing obstacles and opportunities in energy and related infrastructure development and capacity building in Indian country.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

July 31 OITA AA Chad McIntosh and PDAA Jane Nishida will participate in the White House led PCC on the Columbia River Treaty.

August 3 OITA AA Chad McIntosh and AIEO Director Scott Mason will join R8 RA Gregory Sopkin in the R8 RTOC meeting.

August 4 OITA AA Chad McIntosh and AIEO Director Scott Mason will join R10 RA Chris Hladick in the R10 RTOC meeting.

## **Office of the Land and Emergency Management**

### Hot Topics

#### **Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR)**

- a. CCR Phase 2 proposed rule (package 1) – On October 15, 2019, the public comment period ended; OLEM is reviewing the comments.
- b. CCR permitting NPRM (package 3) – On July 31, the reopening notice for this NPRM will be published in the FR, and the public comment period will end on August 7.
- c. CCR litigation packages (package 2, parts A and B) – The Part A final rulemaking package was signed by the Administrator on July 29. For the Part B final rule, we anticipate final management review soon.
- d. CCR Legacy Units ANPRM – On July 22, OP submitted the package to OMB for review.

#### **PCB Extraction NPRM**

OLEM is working on the package and we anticipate it going to OP soon for OMB review.

#### **Subpart J Monitoring Rule**

The Final Agency Review meeting is scheduled for August 20.

#### **Ongoing major Superfund NPL sites**

We are working with R2 on Maywood, Woodbrook Road, and Rolling Knolls; R3 on Barefoot; R4 on Oak Ridge, Birmingham 35<sup>th</sup> Ave., and Petroleum Products Corporation; Region 5 on Sandoval; and R10 on Portland Harbor, Quendall Terminal, Bradford Island, and East Waterway. A meeting to discuss the Administrator's Emphasis List is scheduled with the Administrator for July 31.

#### **CERCLA 108(b) Financial Assurance (next three sectors)**

The public comment period for the Industry 2 (Petroleum and Coal) rule ended on February 21. On May 6, an options selection meeting for 108(b) additional classes was held. The public comment period for the Industry 3 (Chemical Manufacturing) NPRM ended May 6.

#### **PFAS**

- e. Designation of PFOA/PFOS as CERCLA Hazardous Substances NPRM - The rule package was submitted to the Office of Policy on September 20, 2019, for OMB review.
- f. National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) PFAS Waste Destruction and Disposal Interim Guidance – OMB/Interagency review began on July 27; EPA has requested an expedited 60-day review.

**Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) Program.** The FY21 EWDJT request for applications has been published on grants.gov. and closes on September 22.

### Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

#### **EPA 50th Anniversary**

July is “Land” month. OLEM continues to work with OPA to highlight its programs throughout the month.

#### **Underground Storage Tanks (UST)**

On August 3, Louisiana’s UST program will become the 11th state program to be approved under the 2015 federal UST regulation.

#### **OLEM Town Hall**

OLEM’s next employee Town Hall meeting is scheduled for August 4.

#### **Land, Chemicals and Redevelopment Division (LCRD) Branch Chiefs Meeting**

The LCRD Branch Chiefs meeting will be held virtually on August 3 – August 5.

## Office of Mission Support

### Hot Topics

#### **New AFGE Contract**

On July 10, a [ HYPERLINK "https://intranet.epa.gov/ohr/emprelations/AFGE-EPA%20CBA%20-%20July%202020.pdf" ] went into effect for AFGE bargaining unit employees. There are 21 articles, including seven new ones: Employee Rights, Union Rights, Career Ladder Promotions, Health & Safety, Drug Free Workplace, Position Classification and Awards. Seven articles were renegotiated (in whole or in part): Telework, Work Schedules, Leave, Negotiated Grievance Procedure, Official Time, Use of Agency Facilities, Dues Deductions and Duration. The remaining articles remain the same as the 2019 CBA. Supervisor training, employee training and additional resources (including a crosswalk between the 2019 and 2020 CBAs) are coming soon.

#### **Hiring Update and Outreach Efforts**

The HR Shared Service Centers (SSCs) continue to focus on high priority hiring initiatives and increasing the volume of applicants and new hires to the agency. The agency's time-to-hire has steadily decreased since February (from 100 days to 69).

- June was the agency's **lowest time-to-hire at 69 days.**
- As of July 1, the **overall agency gains in FY20 is 376.**
- 165 hires are pending start dates, with 91 expected to onboard by August 2.
- 972 external hires thus far in FY20, which is 472 more than this time last year (i.e., Oct-June FY19: 500 external hires).

#### **National IT/IM Working Meeting**

On July 21 – July 23, OMS in partnership with Region 1 planned and conducted the National IT/IM Working Meeting. The audience was Regional Information Resource Management Branch Chiefs, HQ Information Management Officers, and Senior IT Leaders from across the Agency. The sessions covered were:

- Pandemic Resilience Discussion
- Enhancing EPA's Cloud Services
- Barriers to Enterprise Adoption
- Priority Data Challenges & Facilities Data
- IT Hiring and Succession Planning
- Making Shared Services a Reality
- Records Management and Digitization

During those sessions, participants had discussions with a goal of problem-solving and establishing the next steps toward solutions. The agenda, presentations, and other materials can be found in the OMS-EI Lead Region SharePoint folder [ HYPERLINK "https://usepa.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/oarm\_Work/oms\_lr/LR\_OMS\_OMS\_EI/OMSEI%20Specific%20Documents/Virtual%20ITIM%20Meeting%20-%20July%202020/Virtual%20ITIM%20Meeting%20-%20July%202020?csf=1&web=1&e=VwdUSN" \t "\_blank" ]. The group will reconvene for the next National IT/IM Meeting in January 2021.

## Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

### **Veterans' Hiring Webinar**

On August 18 – August 20, the HR SSCs will host a Veterans' Hiring Webinar, where they will cover the different types of appointing authorities, how to apply, and resume tips. EPA employees and veterans, Master Sergeant Tina Mak (USAF-R) and First Lieutenant Christian Wallace (NCARNG), will speak about their transition from the military to EPA and answer questions during the webinars. The SSCs will host future hiring events and welcome additional veterans to participate in upcoming panels. If interested, or to provide information about job opportunities that can be advertised at the event, supervisors should coordinate with their PMO or RHRO.

### ***New Thriving Tuesdays and Trending Thursdays Webinar Series***

OMS is hosting a new Thriving Tuesdays and Trending Thursdays webinar series between August 4 - August 20. Participants will learn how to manage work and life stress, Federal Employee Health Benefits Program, and maximizing social security benefits. Registration is not required for these LIVE webinars. Listed below are next month's series:

- **Brain Management Under Stress**, Tuesday, August 4 @ 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM EDT. Click [ [HYPERLINK](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fepawebconferencing.acms.com%2F covid19webinars&data=02%7C01%7CCarter-Jenkins.Shakeba%40epa.gov%7Cc820f031c758412c071908d833eced06%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637316439963915788&sdata=Cajqhsjg%2FUuHFjqxYHClSP%2FQkXtda41Bi h3Csjyfdrg%3D&reserved=0) "https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fepawebconferencing.acms.com%2F covid19webinars&data=02%7C01%7CCarter-Jenkins.Shakeba%40epa.gov%7Cc820f031c758412c071908d833eced06%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637316439963915788&sdata=Cajqhsjg%2FUuHFjqxYHClSP%2FQkXtda41Bi h3Csjyfdrg%3D&reserved=0" ] to attend live.
- **Pre-Retirement: Understanding Medicare and FEHB**, Thursday, August 6 @ 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM EDT. Click [ [HYPERLINK](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fepawebconferencing.acms.com%2F covid19webinars&data=02%7C01%7CCarter-Jenkins.Shakeba%40epa.gov%7Cc820f031c758412c071908d833eced06%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637316439963925783&sdata=fU19BDEHGQt2OM%2FkmhYGZZVmxSBETtGR54sU1Skn494%3D&reserved=0) "https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fepawebconferencing.acms.com%2F covid19webinars&data=02%7C01%7CCarter-Jenkins.Shakeba%40epa.gov%7Cc820f031c758412c071908d833eced06%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637316439963925783&sdata=fU19BDEHGQt2OM%2FkmhYGZZVmxSBETtGR54sU1Skn494%3D&reserved=0" ] to attend live.
- **Social Security**, Thursday, August 20 @ 11:00 – 1:00 PM EDT. Click [ [HYPERLINK](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fepawebconferencing.acms.com%2F covid19webinars&data=02%7C01%7CCarter-Jenkins.Shakeba%40epa.gov%7Cc820f031c758412c071908d833eced06%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637316439963925783&sdata=fU19BDEHGQt2OM%2FkmhYGZZVmxSBETtGR54sU1Skn494%3D&reserved=0) "https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fepawebconferencing.acms.com%2F covid19webinars&data=02%7C01%7CCarter-Jenkins.Shakeba%40epa.gov%7Cc820f031c758412c071908d833eced06%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637316439963925783&sdata=fU19BDEHGQt2OM%2FkmhYGZZVmxSBETtGR54sU1Skn494%3D&reserved=0" ] to attend live.

Visit the [ [HYPERLINK](https://usepa.sharepoint.com/sites/OARM_Community/benefits_corner/SitePages/Upcoming-Benefits-W.aspx?source=https%3A%2F%2Fusepa.sharepoint.com%2F sites%2FOARM_Community%2Fbenefits_corner%2F SitePages%2FForms%2FByAuthor.aspx)

"https://usepa.sharepoint.com/sites/OARM\_Community/benefits\_corner/SitePages/Upcoming-Benefits-W.aspx?source=https%3A%2F%2Fusepa.sharepoint.com%2F sites%2FOARM\_Community%2Fbenefits\_corner%2F SitePages%2FForms%2FByAuthor.aspx" ] to learn more about these and other upcoming webinars.



**Office of Policy**Hot Topics

Nothing to Report.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

<b>Active Interagency Reviews from OMB</b>		
<b>Subject</b>		<b>OMB Due Date</b>
DOT/FAA FRM: Streamlined Launch and Reentry License Requirements		07/31/2020
DOC/BIS NPRM: Commerce Control List: Proposed Controls on “Software” for the Operation of Certain Automated Nucleic Acid Assemblers and Synthesizers; Request for Comments		08/03/2020
OPM NPRM: Attorney Fees and Personnel Action Coverage under the Back Pay Act		08/03/2020
FAR Interim Rule: Federal Acquisition Regulation: Prohibition on Contracting with Entities Using Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment (FAR Case 2019-009)		08/03/2020
DHS/FEMA NPRM: Cost of Assistance Estimates in the Disaster Declaration Process for the Public Assistance Program		08/13/2020
DOI/FWS NPRM (Pass-back): Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revision of the Regulations for Designating Critical Habitat, ESA 4(b)(2)*		N/A
<b>Documents Sent to the OFR from July 23 - 29 , 2020</b>		
<b>FRL #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date Sent to FR</b>
10010-32-OMS	Revisions to 2 CFR Part 1500	07-29-2020
10010-80-Region 3	NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE J.H. & C.K. EAGLE MILL (KULPMONT) SITE, KULPMONT, NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA	07-29-2020
10012-43-OW	Use of Lead Free Pipes, Fittings, Fixtures, Solder, and Flux for Drinking Water	07-29-2020
10012-44-OW	State Formula Allocations for Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Grants	07-29-2020
10012-98-Region 8	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Partial Deletion the Anaconda Co. Smelter Superfund Site	07-29-2020
10013-20-OLEM	Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System: Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities; A Holistic Approach to Closure Part A: Deadline to Initiate Closure	07-29-2020
10012-66-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; GA; Revision to I/M Program	07-28-2020



10012-83-Region 1	Air Plan Approval; Massachusetts; Negative Declaration for the Oil and Gas Industry	07-28-2020
10012-84-Region 6	Findings of Failure to Submit State Implementation Plans Required for Attainment of the 2010 1-Hour Primary Sulfur Dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> ) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)	07-28-2020
10012-96-Region 1	Program Requirement Revisions related to the Public Water System Supervision Programs for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the State of Connecticut and the State of New Hampshire	07-28-2020
10012-53-Region 6	Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Arkansas, New Mexico, and Albuquerque-Bernalillo County, New Mexico; Control of Emissions From Existing Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration Units	07-28-2020
10011-63-Region 9	Final Determination to Approve Site Specific Flexibility for the Cocopah Landfill	07-27-2020
10012-06-OMS	Toxic Chemical Release Reporting/2613.02	07-27-2020
10012-40-OCSP	Notice of Receipt of Requests to Voluntarily Cancel Certain Pesticide Registrations and Amend Registrations to Terminate Certain Uses	07-27-2020
10013-06-OMS	NSPS for Stationary Spark Ignition Internal Combustion Engines (Renewal)/ICR 2227.06	07-27-2020
10013-08-OMS	National Estuary Program (Renewal) /1500.10	07-27-2020
10013-10-OMS	NSPS for Kraft Pulp Mill Affected Sources for Which Construction, Reconstruction, or Modification Commenced After May 23, 2013 (Renewal)/2485.04	07-27-2020
10013-11-OMS	NESHAP for Group IV Polymers and Resins (Renewal)/ICR 2457.04	07-27-2020
10013-12-OMS	NSPS for Equipment Leaks of VOC in Petroleum Refineries (Renewal)/ICR 0983.16	07-27-2020
10013-13-OMS	The Consolidated Air Rule (CAR) for the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturing Industry (SOCMI) (Renewal)/ICR 1854.11	07-27-2020
10013-15-OMS	Air Pollution Regulations for Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Activities (Renewal)/ICR 1601.09	07-27-2020
10013-17-OMS	Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program (Renewal)/ICR 1391.12	07-27-2020
10008-94-OCSP	Part 180 Pethoxamid; Pesticide Tolerances	07-24-2020
10009-42-OCSP	Part 180 Nitrapyrin; Pesticide Tolerances	07-24-2020
10010-61-OCSP	Parts 9 and 721 Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (20-1.B)	07-24-2020
10011-78-OCSP	Part 180 Novaluron; Pesticide Tolerances	07-24-2020
10011-30-OCSP	Petition to Revoke All Neonicotinoid Tolerances; Notice of Availability	07-24-2020
10012-93-Region 7	Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Control of Emissions from Production of Pesticides and Herbicides	07-24-2020

10012-41-OCSP	Notice of Receipt of Requests to Voluntarily Cancel Certain Pesticide Registrations	07-24-2020
10012-68-OCSP	Registration Review Proposed Interim Decisions for Naphthalene and Para-dichlorobenzene; Notice of Availability	07-24-2020
10012-32-OCSP	Part 180 Receipt of Several Pesticide Petitions Filed for Residues of Pesticide Chemicals in or on Various Commodities (June 2020)	07-24-2020
10012-92-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; MS; BART SIP and Regional Haze Progress Report	07-24-2020
10012-99-OLEM	Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System: Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals From Electric Utilities; Federal CCR Permit Program; Reopening of Comment Period	07-24-2020
10012-86-Region 4	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Deletion of the Fairfax St. Wood Treaters Superfund Site	07-23-2020
10012-19-OCSP	Certain New Chemicals; Receipt and Status Information for June 2020	07-23-2020

**Office of Research and Development**Hot Topics**Covid-19****Air Force Research Lab Discusses EPA Research Efforts Related to COVID-19**

EPA Researchers met with the Air Force Research Lab (AFRL) to discuss planned and ongoing research efforts related to COVID-19. A current priority for AFRL is identifying disinfectants suitable for use in different types of aircrafts, as supply chain issues related to the pandemic limit the availability of aircraft-approved disinfectants. AFRL is actively conducting research related to biothermal decontamination, electrostatic sprayers, and ionization technologies for surface disinfection.

**ORD Continues Ohio Wastewater Monitoring Efforts for SARS-CoV-2**

Researchers met with Ohio EPA, Department of Health, and the Ohio Water Resources Center to discuss data presentation tools and maps for the Ohio wastewater monitoring program. EPA will focus on sampling sites from the southwest portion of the state, including Cincinnati, Dayton, and selected surrounding cities.

**EPA Researchers Support WRF Interlaboratory Methods & Assessment Study**

The Water Research Foundation is conducting a study entitled, Interlaboratory and Methods Assessment of the SARS-CoV-2 Genetic Signal in Wastewater. EPA researchers were selected to participate in the study. The goal of the study is to have a balanced comparison of different methods used by multiple laboratories for SARS-CoV-2 detection. The study will involve two rounds of samples received and analyzed for interlaboratory comparisons.

**Salivary Antibody Assay to Assess Community Exposure for SARS-CoV-2 Virus**

ORD continues recruitment for in-house saliva sample collection study. The University of Michigan is on board to provide 50 paired serum and saliva samples. Information about the study and how to enroll can also be found on the website [ [HYPERLINK](#)

"<https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fepastudies.org%2Fpublic%2Fepastudies%2FSelectedStudies.aspx%23COVID&data=02%7C01%7CHubbard.Carolyn%40epa.gov%7Ca40195b22bc3421bb97808d833d2cb08%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637316327721924793&sdata=B65H3Bpha5m6nDM30a2CyFT1la28amhjbhu0dTRLLj4%3D&reserved=0> ].

**PFAS****PFAS Innovation Treatment Team Update**

The PFAS Innovative Treatment Team (PITT) is setting up lab and field studies for this summer investigating ways of destroying PFAS. The Team is finalizing plans for conducting field sampling at a municipal waste combustion facility during the last week of August. The PITT is targeting for this firm to test PFAS with ORD's thermal reactor in late August. The University of Dayton Research Institute (UDRI) is conducting thermal analysis studies of PFAS destruction. The PITT met with a representative from a non-profit trust that is helping remediate corporate properties. The company is working with multiple sites with PFAS issues and are working to find suitable technologies. The trust company may have potential sites for testing and for obtaining test media. Also, the PITT has arranged to get AFFF samples from federal and state sources. These samples can be used in EPA's lab testing.

### **CompTox Chemicals Dashboard**

Updates to the CompTox Chemicals Dashboard were highlighted in a recent press release about [ HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/trump-epa-continues-aggressively-address-pfas-federal-state-and-local-level" ]. These updates include new data and predictive models for PFAS that will help prioritize PFAS for further testing and will help inform categorization efforts.

### **Enhanced Efficiency Fertilizer Challenge Update**

The Next Gen Fertilizer Challenge is anticipated to launch the week of Aug. 3. ORD continues to work closely with the challenge partners, collaborators, OW and the Adviser for Agriculture in preparation to amplify communication and outreach for the challenge.

### **Federal Register Notice Release on Chloroprene**

A federal register notice announcing the external peer review of a PBPK model for chloroprene, and an EPA uncertainty analysis, is now published. The peer review is anticipated to occur in September 2020.

### **Federal Register Notice Release on Vanadium (Oral)**

A federal register notice announcing the release of the IRIS Assessment Plan (IAP) for Oral Exposure to Vanadium and Compounds for a 30-day public comment period is now published. The IRIS Program will convene a public meeting on August 19, to discuss the IAP and other key science issues pertinent to oral exposure to vanadium.

### **Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science Options Selection Meeting; Final Rule**

On August 5, ORD will hold a pre-meeting with AAs and RAs for the Options Selection meeting with the Administrator, which is scheduled for August 10.

### **SBIR Success Story**

[ HYPERLINK

"https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fecovativedesign.com%2F&data=02%7C01%7CHubbard.Carolyn%40epa.gov%7Ce743729e129240e1dc3f08d833bdd2c2%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637316237660540803&sdata=7HDJJFn6KPD3yVSXb3bRW8EAdcWMHLh%2FM2OTEcHkYE%3D&reserved=0" ], an EPA SBIR Phase II small business out of New York, developed novel, sustainable biomaterials grown from the mushroom component mycelium which can be used as an alternative to plastic. The Target Systems Department of the US Navy, located in San Diego, CA, has been using Ecovative's Mycofoam panels to construct floating targets for munitions testing. Recent initiatives set forth by the US Navy have required that all targets be fully compostable post-testing, or able to be alternatively cleaned up after testing. By using Ecovative's Mycofoam panels, the Target Systems Department can construct targets which are fully compostable after use, and do not require material retrieval efforts. Testing of these compostable targets will be conducted on both land and sea.

### **Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**

Nothing to Report.

**Office of Water**Hot Topics**WIIN Tribal Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Grants**

This week, EPA announced a new grant program that will help protect children from lead exposure in drinking water at schools and childcare facilities in tribal communities. Authorized by the Water Infrastructure Improvements of the Nation (WIIN) Act, EPA is making a total of \$4,304,000 available to tribal consortia to support the *Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Tribal Grant Program*. Grantees will use the EPA's *3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water* guidance to implement lead testing programs and develop monitoring, maintenance and/or sampling plans that protect children from lead exposure now and in the future. OW is sending letters to the tribal consortia to provide information about the program and to provide the opportunity for each consortium to notify EPA if it intends to participate in the program.

**Final Rule: Use of Lead Free Pipes, Fittings, Fixtures, Solder, and Flux for Drinking Water**

This week, the Administrator signed the final rule titled "Use of Lead Free Pipes, Fittings, Fixtures, Solder, and Flux for Drinking Water." In this action, EPA finalized changes to existing regulations to protect the public from lead in plumbing materials used in public water systems or residential or nonresidential facilities providing water for human consumption. The changes in this rule codify aspects of the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act of 2011 (RLDWA) and the Community Fire Safety Act of 2013 (CFSA). EPA committed to finalizing this rule as part of the Federal Lead Action Plan (Objective 1.2).

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**Association of Clean Water Administrators 2020 Annual Meeting**

Next week, Assistant Administrator Dave Ross will give keynote remarks where he will discuss OW priorities including updates on the PFAS Action Plan, nutrients, and working with states. Virtual event. Closed press.

**Miami-Dade County WIFIA Loan Virtual Event**

On August 6, through a virtual event with elected officials and dignitaries in Miami, Administrator Andrew Wheeler will announce a new \$235 million WIFIA loan to Miami-Dade County to help finance improvements and expansion of wastewater treatment facilities. This action marks the third WIFIA loan to Miami-Dade County, totaling \$660 million to help improve the water quality of Biscayne Bay and support proper wastewater treatment for Miami-Dade County. The WIFIA program is helping Miami-Dade reduce nutrient discharges, eliminate the use of ocean outfalls and reuse 60 percent of wastewater flows.